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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 060440Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 6320

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MILI, TU
SUBJ: MTURKISH VICTORY WEEK PROUNCEMENTS

SUMMARY: AS USUAL, TURKISH CELEBRATION OF AUGUST 30, 1922 "VICTORY DAY" HAS OCCASIONED A SERIES OF PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE STATE OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES. THESE HAVE INCLUDED STATEMENTS AND/OR INTERVIEWS MADE BY TGS CHIEF OF STAFF EVREN AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE ISIK. THE STATEMENTS TOUCH ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE SIZE AND MODERNIZATION OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, THE MILITARY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, THE GOT'S NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT AND THE ARMED FORCES' ROLE AS 'GUARANTOR' OF THE NATION. BASED ON THESE STATEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR THE FIRST PUBLIC HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A LIMITED ECONOMIC ROLE FOR THE ARMED FORCES, IT APPEARS THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IS AN INCREASINGLY COOPERATIVE ONE. EVREN'S REMARKS ON THE MILITARY AS THE ULTIMATE GUARANTOR OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC ARE SIMILAR TO PAST PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SUCH OCCASIONS. NEED TO DEVELOP NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY IS ALSO STRESSED. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN HIS AUGUST 26 "VICTORY WEEK AND ARMED FORCES DAY" MESSAGE, TGS CHIEF OF STAFF KENAN EVREN PRAISED THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES AS CAPABLE OF DEFEATING ANY FOE OF EQUAL OR GREATER SIZE, EVEN THOUGH THE ENEMY MIGHT BE BETTER ARMED OR EQUIPPED. AS RESULT OF THIS TURKISH STRENGTH, "FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENEMIES" HAVE ATTEMPTED TO WEAKEN AND DIVIDE THE TURKISH MILITARY BY MEANS OF

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"PROVOCATIONS", BUT THE ARMED FORCES WILL NOT BE FOOLED OR BECOME THEIR ACCESSORIES, SAYS EVREN. HE MENTIONS GOT PARTICIPATION IN "PACTS WHICH DO NOT HAVE AGGRESSIVE OBJECTIVES", BUT RECALLS THAT GOT WAR POTENTIAL HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY "FOREIGN EVENTS" AND "ACTIONS OF OUR FRIENDS". LESSONS DRAWN FROM THIS HAVE SHOWN THE NEED FOR SELF RELIANCE AND THE FORMATION OF A CONCEPT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND DEFENSE INDUSTRY WITHIN A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK, ALTHOUGH ALSO WITHIN CONFINES OF FRIENDLY SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER NATIONS. EVREN THEN CITES THE MILITARY AS THE "PROTECTOR AND GUARANTOR OF OUR REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRACY" AND URGES NO ONE TO DOUBT THIS. HE STATES THAT THE NATION SHOULD NOT BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FACT THAT "ANARCHIC INCIDENTS" WHICH OCCUR ELSEWHERE ALSO TAKE PLACE IN TURKEY, FOR SO LONG AS ARMED FORCES EXIST, "NO ONE WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO DESTROY THE REPUBLIC FOUNDED AND ENTRUSTED TO US BY ATATURK."

2. IN AN AUGUST 28 INTERVIEW WITH THE WEEKLY "YANKI" NEWS MAGAZINE EVREN AMPLIFIED SOME OF THE POINTS CONTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS DAY'S MESSAGE. (SEE DAO IR NO. 6898054278 FOR TEXT.) COMMENTING ON THE GENERAL STATE OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, EVREN NOTES THAT THE COMBINATION OF THE TURKISH ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE US "ARMS AND ECONOMIC" EMBARGO HAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES AND REGRETS THAT TURKEY'S ALLIES
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HAVE NOT SHOWN "UNDERSTANDING" TOWARDS TURKISH NEED TO MODERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES. HE NOTES THAT WHILE OTHER ECONOMICALLY STRONGER COUNTRIES HAVE REDUCED THEIR MILITARY FORCES, GOT HAS NOT: HOWEVER, IF SUCH A SITUATION CONTINUES, GOT WILL ALSO BE FORCED TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF ITS OWN ARMY, AND STUDIES ON THIS SUBJECT ARE IN PROGRESS. ALTHOUGH EVREN NOTES THAT THE LIFTING OF EMBARGO WILL ALLOW GOT TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN NEEDED SPARE PARTS, HE SEES LITTLE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT POSSIBLE UNLESS US PROVIDES GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR AS LONG AS GOT FOREIGN CURRENCY SHORTAGE PERSISTS. EVREN NOTES THAT PRIOR TO GOT ENTRY INTO NATO, TURKISH ARMS INDUSTRY HAD BEEN IN EXISTENCE, BUT AS RESULT OF SUBSEQUENT DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SOURCES FOR WEAPONS, NATIONAL INDUSTRY HAD ATROPHIED. EMBARGO HAS TAUGHT GOT MANY LESSONS, ONE OF WHICH IS GREAT ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPING NATIONAL MILI-TARY INDUSTRY.

3. REFERRING TO THE MILITARY'S ROLE IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, EVREN CALLS IT THE NORMAL AND NECES-SARY THING IN TIME OF CRISES AND STATES THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT

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JEAOPARDIZING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. HE CITES CIVILIAN USE OF NATO PIPELINES AND USE BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF ABANDONED AIRFILEDS AS IRRIGATED CROP LAND AS EXAMPLES AND DEFENDS THE PRIME MINISTER'S AUGUST 8 VISIT TO FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND HIS TOUR OF THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATION AT GOLCUK. EVREN ALSO CITES SUCH MILITARY INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY AND DECLARES THAT THE PUBLICIZING OF SUCH EVENTS IS A WAY IN WHICH TURKISH NATION CAN GET TO KNOW THE ARMED FORCES, OBSERVING THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOT ONLY CONSUMERS, "AS PROPAGANDIZED BY CERTAIN ILL-INTENTIONED CIRCLES" (I.E., DEMIREL), BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTORS.

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4. EVREN ALSO MENTIONS THE DIFFICULTY OF DEEPING UP THE MORALE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN AN INFLATIONARY ECONOMY, NOTING THAT SOME LOWER-RANKING OFFICERS AND NCOS ARE BEING FORCED TO LIVE IN "GECEKONDU" BECAUSE OF

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TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /092 W
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R 060440Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3196
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 6320

HIGH RENTS AND INADEQUATE COMPENSATION. FINALLY, EVREN

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STATES THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE CLOSELY FOLLOWING "ANARCHY, TERRORIST ACTIONS AND SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS" WHICH ARE OCCURRING, AND WHILE CONVINCED THAT THESE INCIDENTS WILL END SOONER OR LATER, THE ARMED FORCES "WILL DO THEIR DUTY TO SAFEGUARD THE REGIME AND THE COUNTRY'S INTEGRITY IN THE EVENT OF TERRORISM REACHING UNCONTROLLABLE DIMENSIONS."

5. DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK'S AUGUST 27 INTERVIEW WITH "CUMHURIYET" TOUCHES MANY OF THE SAME SUBJECTS. ISIK NOTES THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT REGARDS NATIONAL SECURITY AS AN INTEGRAL WHOLE, I.E., SECURITY MUST BE ACHIEVED NOT ONLY AGAINST POSSIBLE THREATS FROM A SINGLE DIRECTION, BUT AGAINST THREATS IN GENERAL WHICH MAY COME FROM ANY DIRECTON. HE FEELS THAT MUTUAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS CAN ONLY BE OF PARTIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE WIDER SENSE, AND ASSERTS THAT GOT IS DETERMINED TO ACT MORE INDEPENDENTLY AND MORE IN THE DIRECTION OF ITS OWN NATIONAL INTEREST, EVEN WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE ALSO STATES THAT BEING A MEMBER OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIANCE DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDELY RELATIONS AND HARMONY WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE IT. ISIK NOTES THAT GOT SHALL TAKE CARE SO THAT ITS CONCEPT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE "WILL HAVE ALL THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE CREATION OF A SITUATION OF CLOSE CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL FRINEDSHIP WITH GREECE" AND SAYS THAT GREEK SIGNATURE OF "POLITICAL DOCUMENT" WHICH MAY BE NEGOTIATED WILL PROVIDE EVIDENCE FOR GOT THAT GREEKS ALSO INTEND TO FORMULATE THEIR CONCEPT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE SAME MANNER.

6. ON THE MILITARY AND THE ECONOMOY, ISIK SAYS THAT DE-VELOPING COUNTRIES MUST MAKE AUXILIARY USE OF CERTAIN RESOURCES WHILE THE PRIMARY SERVICES ARE BEING FULFILLED AND CONTRIBUTION OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES MUST BE CON-SIDERED IN THIS LIGHT. ISIK STATES THAT THE ARMED FORCES WILL NEVER NEGLECT ITS PRIMARY DUTY OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY, BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO BE OF USE TO THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE EFFORTS NECESSARY FOR DEFENSE. HE CITES CIVILIAN UTILIZATION OF THE MILI-TARY PIPELINE NETWORK AS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT. IN SAME CONTEXT ISIK NOEES THAT STUDY IS NOW UNDERWAY TO REMOVE LAND MINES "FROM THE BORDER REGIONS OF THE SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST" AND THUS CLEAR WAY FOR THE LAND TO BE USED FOR AGRICULTUREAL PURPOSES. ON MODERNIZATION AND FORCE SIZE, ISIK STATES THAT TROOP DEMANDS MUST BE DETERMINED IN ACCORD WITH MILITARY DATA, BUT NOTES THAT MANPOWER CAN COMPENSATE FOR LACK OF MODERN ARMS AND MATERIEL TO ONLY

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A VERY LIMITED DEGREE. HE ALSO ADDS THAT INCREASINGLY
TECHNICAL MEANS OF WAR MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO SHORTEN
MILITARY SERVICE TOURS AND THAT ANY LARGE REDUCTION IN
THE NUMBER OF MEN UNDER ARMS WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF
OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO A GREATER EXTENT
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THAN AT PRESENT.

7. COMMENT: BASED ON AUGUST EVENTS, THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP
APPEARS TO BE AN INCREASINGLY COOPERATIVE ONE. AS PRE-
VIOUSLY REPORTED, EARLIER THIS MONTH EVEVIT WAS
ABLE TO AVOID INTRUDING HIMSELF PUBLICLY INTO THE ANNUAL
MILITARY PROMOTION CYCLE, AS DEMIREL HAD SOMEWHAT UN-
SEEMINGLY DONE IN 1977 (ANKARA 6093). IN TURN, EVREN
HAS PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE GOVERN-
MENT'S MUCH TOUTED, BUT STILL ILL-DEFINED "NEW DEFENSE
CONCEPT." THIS IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AS REGARDS
THE MILITARY'S ROLE IN THE ECONOMY SINCE HERETOFORE THE
MILITARY HAS BEEN SILENT ON THIS ISSUE, SIGNIFYING ALMOST
CERTAIN DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE LDEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH
EVREN'S ENDORSEMENT IS A QUALIFIED AND A CONSERVATIVE
ONE, AND THE EXAMPLES HE CITES ARE MINIMAL, HIS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EVEN A RUDIMENTARY MILITARY ROLE IN
THIS AREA IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN LIGHT
OF CRITICISM OF THE CONCEPT BY OPPOSITION LEADERS
DEMIREL AND TURKES. (COMMENT: AT THE AUGUST 7 MILITARY
PROMOTION CEREMONY ECEVIT CONGRATULATED THE CHIEF OF
STAFF FOR KEEPING IN MIND THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE
DEFENSE FORCE AND THE ECONOMY, A REMARK WHICH DEMIREL THE
NEXT DAY CHARACTERITED AS "VERY DANGEROUS", DECLARING
THAT HE WAS CATEGORICALLY OPPOSED TO HAVING THE ARMED
FORCES PERFORM SERVICES OTHER THAN THEIR DUTIES.) EVREN'S
STATEMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION
APPEARS SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS MADE UNDER
SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER,
THAT HE ALSO CHOSE TO PUBLICLY RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE EFFECT
THAT HIGH RENTS WERE HAVING ON THE MILITARY STANDARD
OF LIVING SINCE THIS HAS BEEN A BAROMETER OF MILITARY
UNREST IN THE PAST. SPIERS

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TAGS: MILI, TU
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